

wonderful marine aviary — second to none of the natural features of California.” In 1884 it is said 300,000 eggs were gathered and the market was glutted, while the present year only 91,740 have been taken. Comparatively few birds are allowed to breed and such merciless persecution can but result in extinction. The commercial value of these rookeries will doubtless prevent their protection from purely sentimental grounds, but if it can be shown that the present course will end in the destruction of the egg industry, it might be possible to secure the enactment of a law which would protect the birds for at least the latter half of the nesting season.— F. M. C.

**Ridgway on New Species and Subspecies of Birds<sup>1</sup>.**—In the three papers here cited, none of which bears date of publication, Mr. Ridgway describes *Geothlypis flaveolatus* from near Tampico on the Gulf coast of Mexico, a form which, strangely enough, is most closely related to *G. beldingi* of Lower California; *Geospiza pachyryncha*, *G. fatigata*, *Camarhynchus bindloei*, *C. compressirostris*, and *C. incertus* from the apparently exhaustless Galapagos, and *Peucedramus olivaceus aurantiacus* from Guatemala.— F. M. C.

**Oberholser on Two New Subspecies of Dryobates.<sup>2</sup>**—Comparison of a series of 200 Downy Woodpeckers has impressed Mr. Oberholser with the differences in size and color existing between specimens from the South Atlantic and Gulf States and those from Alaska and northern British America, and he therefore separates these extremes under the names *Dryobates pubescens meridionalis* (Swainson) and *Dryobates pubescens nelsoni* (Oberholser) respectively, leaving *Dryobates pubescens* as a transition form occupying the intervening region.— F. M. C.

**Richmond on Mexican Birds.<sup>3</sup>**—This is a nominal list of 58 species, with the number of specimens of each, received by the National Museum

<sup>1</sup> 1. Description of a New Species of Ground Warbler from Eastern Mexico. By Robert Ridgway, Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, p. 119.

2. Preliminary Description of some New Birds from the Galapagos Archipelago. *Ibid.*, p. 293.

3. Description of a New Subspecies of the Genus *Peucedramus*, Coues. *Ibid.*, p. 441.

<sup>2</sup> Description of Two New Subspecies of the Downy Woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens* (Linnaeus). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1895, p. 547.

<sup>3</sup> Partial list of Birds collected at Alta Mira, Mexico, by Mr. Frank B. Armstrong. By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp. 627-632.

from the collector. The one new species contained in the collection has been described by Mr. Ridgway as *Geothlypis flavovelatus*. (See *antea*, p. 330).—F. M. C.

**Richmond on New Species of Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Richmond here describes *Ægialitis thoracica*, apparently most nearly related to *Æ. varia*, and *Phlegopsis saturata*, a Nicaraguan representative of the Panama *P. macleani*.—F. M. C.

**Dr. Abbott's Collections from Asia.**<sup>2</sup>—The two papers here cited are detailed lists of the birds collected by Dr. Abbott, giving the data of each specimen, including color of the irides, bill, and feet. The first paper is based on 746 specimens, referable to 188 species; the second, on 210 specimens, representing 98 species. *Cyanecula abbotti* from Ladak, *Merula merula intermedia* from Eastern Turkestan, and *Ægialitis pamirensis* from Pamir, are described as new.—F. M. C.

**Dr. Abbott's Collections from the Seychelles and other Islands.**<sup>3</sup>—This paper is an important contribution to our knowledge of the distribution of birds in these Madagascan islands. Sixteen land birds are recorded from the Seychelles group, eight from the Amirante group, four from Assumption Island, eight from Gloriosa Island, and twenty from Aldabra Island. Dr. Abbott's field-notes relate almost wholly to the birds of the last named

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<sup>1</sup> 1. Description of a New Species of Plover from the East Coast of Madagascar. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., X, March 14, 1896, p. 53.

2. Description of a New Species of Ant Thrush from Nicaragua. By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, p. 625.

<sup>2</sup> 1. Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Dr. W. L. Abbott in Kashmir, Balistan and Ladak, with Notes on Some of the Species, and a Description of a New Species of *Cyanecula*. By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp. 451-503.

2. Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Dr. W. L. Abbott, in Eastern Turkestan, the Thian-Shan Mountains, and Tagdumbash Pamir, Central Asia, with Notes on Some of the Species. By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp. 569-576.

<sup>3</sup> On Birds Collected by Doctor W. L. Abbott in the Seychelles, Amirantes, Gloriosa, Assumption, Aldabra, and Adjacent Islands, with Notes on Habits, etc., by the Collector. By Robert Ridgway, Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, 1896, pp. 509-546.